

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 00695 151121Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DEAE-00 SSO-00 VOE-00 /038 W
-----022422 151128Z /16-13

O 150515Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9635
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
INS CENTRAL OFFICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0695

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 1)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: SEALAND VESSEL WITH 55 REFUGEES ABOARD

REF: HONG KONG 1996

1. SEALAND SINGAPORE INFORMED EMBASSY THIS MORNING OF FACTS CONCERNING 55 REFUGEES ABOARD GATEWAY CITY (A U.S. FLAG CARRIER) REPORTED REFTEL. AS HONG KONG IS AWARE, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN GOS PERMISSION FOR REFUGEES TO LAND, EMBASSY REQUIRES DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE AUTHORIZATION TO GIVE WIRREN ASSURANCE TO GOS THAT U.S. WILL GUARANTEE REFUGEES' RESETTLEMENT OUT OF SINGAPORE. AS WAS THE CASE WITH GETTY REFUGEES, GOS WILL PRESUMABLY INSIST THAT THESE REFUGEES BE RESETTLED WITHIN THREE MONTHS. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY CAN REQUEST THAT REFUGEES BE ALLOWED TO LAND WITHOUT GIVING SUCH A GUARANTEE AND WILL OF COURSE DO SO, BUT GOS WILL UNQUESTIONABLY NOT COMPLY. GOS REQUIREMENT FOR GUARANTEES WAS REITERATED TO IRC COMMISSION MEMBERS BY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER YESTERDAY.

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2. WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT REFUGEES BE LANDED IN SINGAPORE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. PROMPT ACTION IN THIS CASE WILL BE THE BEST WAY OF ENCOURAGING SHIP CAPTAINS TO PICK UP REFUGEES IN DISTRESS AND OF ASSURING THAT THEY ARE NOT LEFT TO DROWN.

3. IN VIEW OF LARGE MEMBER OF REFUGEES INVOLVED AND NECESSITY TO ISSUE GUARANTEE, REQUEST INS OFFICER BE DETAILED ASAP TO

INTERVIEW REFUGEES.

4. FOR BANGKOK: SEALAND SINGAPORE ADVISED THAT GATEWAY CITY
IS SCHEDULED TO SAIL FOR BANGKOK ON THE EVENING OF FEB. 16
WITH ETA OF NOON ON FEB. 19.

5. FOR KUALA LUMPUR: CONOFF INFORMED UNHCR REP. CARPENTER OF THE
RESCUE OF THESE REFUGEES JUST PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL. UNHCR,
OF COURSE, IS NOT ABLE TO GIVE THE GUARANTEES REQUIRED BY GOS.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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